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NSC BRIEFING

14 July 1960

THE CONGO

- I. Situation in Leopoldville area remains critical. Lumumba government's action in breaking diplomatic relations with Belgium may stimulate new friction between Congolese and Europeans.
- A. Leopoldville was scene of renewed clashes between Belgian forces and soldiers of the Force Publique on 14 July, after day of relative calm which even saw some fraternization between Belgian and Congolese soldiers.
- B. Much will depend on speed with which UN "presence" can be established in Congo. ~~Prompt arrival of UN force comprised of Africans, followed by withdrawal of Belgian troops to their Congo bases would greatly reduce sources of friction.~~
1. Press quotes UN representative Bunche in Leopoldville as stating UN forces would arrive by 16 July.
 2. Belgians have indicated willingness to withdraw their troops progressively to bases as UN forces arrive.
 3. Lumumba ~~may demand removal of Belgian troops from Congo.~~ *has indicated not content with mere withdrawal by action*
- C. In view of prospective UN intervention, Brussels may have dropped plans to airlift further reinforcements to Congo.
- D. The failure of many Congolese to receive salaries from absent European employers, combined with a potentially serious food shortage in the Leopoldville area, could lead to new violent disturbances.
- II. Lumumba government, meanwhile, continues to demonstrate its ineptitude and anti-Western leanings.

10
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- A. Message to UN from Lumumba and President Kasavubu on 13 July emphasized that Congo had requested UN aid not for purpose of restoring order but to "protect" country from "Belgian aggression."
- B. Same message disavowed previous request for unilateral US assistance, which ~~may have been~~ sent on the initiative of Congo's pro-Western foreign minister, Bomboko.

III. Katanga provincial Premier Tshombe continues to maintain independence of Katanga and to await recognition.

- A. Although he has indicated that secession possibly not final, he is unlikely to associate with Congo so long as Lumumba--whom he has denounced as a Communist--remains as premier.
- B. Tshombe has indicated that he will permit Belgian but not UN troops in Katanga.
- C. Belgian attitude toward Katanga ambiguous. On one hand Eyskens government has recognized Congo and opposes its fragmentation. On other hand, Brussels anxious to protect its investments ~~there~~ ^{in the Katanga} and probably views Lumumba as a budding Castro.